

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Official Organ of the Saint Louis Bird Club
for the Protection,
Enjoyment, Study, and Conservation of Birds

Volume 4

March 13, 1935

Number 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MARCH MEETING OF THE BIRD CLUB will be held at the Nurses' Home of the Jewish Hospital, 306 South Kingshighway, at 8:00 P.M. The date is Wednesday, March 20th.

BIRD WALKS IN FOREST PARK will begin March 30th and 31st and continue throughout April. Groups will leave Jefferson Memorial at 6:00 A.M. and the Art Museum at 7:00 A.M. on each Saturday and Sunday morning.

BIRD WALKS IN SHAW'S GARDEN will leave Flora and Tower Grove avenues at 6:00 A.M. on every Saturday morning in April: April 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.

BIRD WALKS IN CARONDELET PARK will leave the hollow at Grand and Holly Hills viaduct at 6:00 A.M. on Sunday, April 7th and 21st.

BIRD WALKS IN O'FALLON PARK leave the Broadway entrance to the Bellefontaine Cemetery at 6:00 A.M. every Saturday in April.

DUES FOR 1935

The March Bulletin is the last which will be dispatched to members of the Bird Club who have not paid their dues for 1935.

Kindly make all dues payable to Miss Elizabeth Golterman
c/o Educational Museum
3325 Bell Avenue, City

A YEAR AND A HALF OF BIRD BANDING

(June 1933 to January 1935)

On May 29, 1933 the Bureau of Biological Survey granted me permit No. 4998. Since then I have been operating a banding station, only on week-ends, at Sherman, Missouri. Up to January 1, 1935 I have banded 149 birds of twenty-four species. During this time I had a total of 152 repeats, that is birds which were already banded but returned to the traps.

The following is a list of species with the number of repeats:

22	Bronzed Grackles,	no rep.
20	Cardinals,	10 repeats
19	Tufted Titmice,	92 repeats
16	Blue Jays,	10 repeats
10	Brown Thrashers,	4 repeats
8	Rusty Blackbirds,	no repeats
9	Chickadees,	26 repeats
9	Loggerhead Shrikes,	no rep.
5	Robins,	1 repeat
4	European Tree Sparrows,	no repeats
4	House Wrens,	no repeats
4	Juncos,	no repeats
3	Catbirds,	no repeats
3	White-Breasted Nuthatches,	9 repeats
2	Carolina Wrens,	no repeats
2	Downy Woodpeckers,	1 repeat
1	Hairy Woodpecker,	no repeats
1	Red-Headed Woodpecker,	no r.
2	Flickers,	no repeats
1	Black-billed Cuckoo,	no rep.
1	Red-shouldered Hawk,	no rep.
1	Screech Owl,	2 repeats
1	Song Sparrow,	no repeats
1	White-throated Sparrow,	no repeats

The 149 birds plus the 152 make a total of 301 times I
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THE SLING-SHOT MENACE

The large number of birds killed each year by small boys employing the sling-shot, or flipper is often lost sight of.

The degree of accuracy and proficiency attained in the use of this humble weapon by these young Daniel Boones is certainly remarkable.

It is often possible for them to kill small animals such as cats or rabbits, and birds fall easy victims willy-nilly.

A friend of birds in a letter to Dr. Hetler tells of a case he observed where one small boy, armed only with a single playful little flipper, killed after a morning's sport (?) no less than thirty-one song birds by actual count, the majority of which were robins, bluebirds, and catbirds. It is evident that the solution to this problem lies purely in
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I want to refresh your minds with regard to the annual meetings of the American Association for the advancement of Science, and the Wilson Ornithological Club to be held in Saint Louis this coming Christmas vacation. We of the Saint Louis Bird Club should take part in the program.

To this end it would be to our advantage to have as large a membership as we can. It is up to each and every one of us to try to get many new members and for all of us to take an active part in the Bird Club programs and walks. Our next three meetings will be devoted to a study of the field marks of the birds as we will encounter them in the field. I should like every Bird Club member to come to these meetings and to bring as many interested friends and acquaintances as he or she can muster. We want to make this part of Missouri bird conscious and lovers and protectors of the birds. So get busy and do your part.

Also do not forget to put many of the spring walks on your schedule and invite all the people you know to come with you and enjoy this early spring outdoor pleasure.

VERY IMPORTANT

Owing to uncertainty as to the exact date one of our feature hikes was omitted from the schedule printed in last month's Bulletin.

Sunday, April 14th, the Bird Club will visit Mr. Hill's Bird Sanctuary at Antonio.

If you would like to go and have no conveyance, communicate with Miss Golterman, Jef. 1587, and arrangements will be made if possible. Do this as soon as you can. The trip is worth it.

AT CREVE COEUR WITH DR. GANIER

The following is a complete list of the birds observed by a group of Bird Club members led by Dr. Ganier at Creve Coeur Lake on February 24, 1935. The sky was overcast, there were occasional showers, and the temperature was about fifty degrees. This list was compiled by Mr. A. F. Satterthwait. The birds are:

1. E. Red-tailed Hawk (2) (AFG)
2. N. Red-shouldered Hawk (1) (AFG)
3. Marsh Hawk (1)
4. Duck Hawk (2) (AFG)
5. E. Sparrow Hawk (1)
6. Killdeer
7. Herring Gull (1)
8. N. Flicker (10)
9. Red-bellied Woodpecker (1)
10. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)
11. Downy Woodpecker (2)
12. Blue Jay (6)
13. Crow (8)
14. Chickadee
15. Tufted Titmouse (2)
16. White-breasted Nuthatch (1)
17. Brown Creeper (2)
18. Carolina Wren (2)
19. Mockingbird (1)
20. E. Robin (2)
21. Meadowlark
22. Bronzed Grackle (2)
23. Cardinal (2)
24. Junco
25. E. Tree Sparrow
26. White-throated Sparrow
27. M. Song Sparrow
28. English Sparrow

In addition to the above Mr. Selle reports the following species observed later in the day:

29. Hairy Woodpecker
30. Bluebird
- In a separate group your editor observed the following:
31. Cedar Waxwing
32. Lesser Scaup
33. Common Mallard
34. Red-eyed Towhee. -r.a.d.

STARLING PIE

With absolutely no personal animosity we bring up the subject of STARLING PIE for the last time.

We have at hand a recipe for preparing STARLING PIE. We shall quote it and append remarks as we go along. The recipe for the blue ribbon delicacy reads as follows:

"The rather strong gamy flavor of the Starling's flesh will probably limit its popularity, from a culinary standpoint. (You see, the mannaissan authority. He has actually tasted the bird.) When the breasts of these birds have been soaked in soda-salt solution for twelve hours (longer if necessary) and then par-boiled (Is that all?) in water which is afterwards discarded (with the bird, preferably), they may be used in a meat pie that compares fairly well with one made of black-birds or English sparrows (so would shoe leather)."

Will not some one volunteer to test the above recipe? The results if any will be published in the Bulletin for the benefit of all true epicures.

-r.a.d.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. M. P. Jackson, Monroe Foreign Forwarding Co.
Mr. A. C. McKibbin, St. Louis Southwestern Railway Lines

280,000 BIRD SKINS

The Tring collection of birds will soon be on exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History. The collection was the largest private bird collection in the world and was presented to the Museum by Lord Rothschild in memory of Harry Payne Whitney.

POINTERS FOR THE BIRD WALKS

To learn to identify birds readily the student needs keen eyes and ears, an opera glass or field glass, a notebook and pencil, a pocket key or a handbook with colored illustrations, and some training in careful observation.

Size, shape, and color must be noted carefully in order to identify birds. It will be difficult at first to judge the size in inches, but you may compare it with certain common and well-known birds. You may have a scale of sizes, beginning with the Yellow Warbler or Chipping Sparrow, and reading like this: Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Bluebird, Catbird, Robin, Dove, and Crow. Observe these birds very carefully and make sure of the size of each. Find the length of these birds in inches. It will be a simple matter to determine the length of all other birds by comparison.

Next the shape of the bird is an important factor. Is the bird slim or stout? Since birds can raise or lower their feathers at will, some allowance must be made regarding the way the feathers are carried. Birds appear plumper on cold days than they do on the warm days. The shape of the bill must also be noted. It is an important factor in determining the family to which the bird belongs.

The color of the bird is exceptionally important since it is a feature which may be readily observed as a rule. It is best to note the colors on the back of the bird first. They are usually the most pronounced. Then take into consideration the side of the bird. Note any streaks or peculiar markings that may be seen. Observe also the under side of the bird. Many birds possess distinguishing marks
(continued next column)

which make identification comparatively easy. Note where these marks are and fix them firmly in your mind. They often decide identity at a glance.

Continuous alertness is an important factor in successful observation. The student must note every strange sound and establish its cause, must mark every motion and take cognizance of its cause. Bird calls are particularly important. Many of the bird calls are peculiar to the species and when once fixed in mind serve to identify the bird. The expert evinces no hesitation in establishing identity merely by sound. One difficulty is that many birds are ventriloquists. Their voices are very difficult to trace to their sources. With certain species concealed in leafy trees it is a well-nigh impossible task.

The bird student should never leave his notebook or pencil at home. They are his tools. When one has observed a thing and then has immediately written it down, that fact will cling to the memory and will possess the additional merit of being accurate.

-l.m.w.

BIRD NAMES

Bird names change as one goes from one place to another and visits other localities. The flicker has more than forty common names in different localities. Some of the shore birds are known by one name on one side of a river and by another on the opposite side.

Uniformity of names is so obviously a practical convenience that ornithologists try to simplify and stabilize the study by giving to each species, living and fossil, a fixed cognomen derived from the Latin or Greek, by which
(continued next column)

it may be known to all ornithologists in any country. The American Ornithologists' Union has turned its attention also to stabilizing the common names of birds, and both common and technical names for each species are published in the Check List of the Union, which is recognized as the authority for names of North American species.

The individuals that are more or less alike in trivial characters are grouped together as a species, for example, the Robins or the Meadowlarks. The different kinds of these Robins and Meadowlarks, for instance, Southern Robin or Western Meadowlark, are known as subspecies or races. Then all the species that have such characters in common are included in a genus. The name of the genus comes first, the name of the species second, and the name of the subspecies is third. For example, the Robin has been thus divided. There is but one species of Robin in North America and that is *Planesticus migratorius*. There is a recognized western race of the Robin known as *Planesticus migratorius propinquus*. The differences, in size and color, are not great. Why, then, recognize races at all and give them names? It is answered that as we advance in the study of ornithology we are driven to trinomials, by the fact that some species are known to have geographic races which possess trifling differences.

The student of birds in the field will do well, at first, if he is able to recognize the species, leaving the subspecific determinations to a later period, when he will have the advantage of more study and experience. Some of our common birds have received subspecific titles which are difficult.

I.M.W.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee decided to conduct the next meeting by exhibiting slides of our common spring migrants together with material which may be of use in identifying the birds in the field.

It was decided to circulate as widely as possible the plea for education of the small boy in the use of the sling-shot in a proper fashion.

Leaflets will be printed and distributed to Bird Club members showing the most prominent identification marks of our Sparrows.

MISSOURI GAME SURVEY

The Missouri game survey now being conducted by Rudolf Bennett and W.O. Nagel is nearing completion. The report is that valuable information has been obtained with indications that our game birds are in need of even greater protection than they have been receiving.

BIRDS IN FOREST PARK

The following birds have been observed in Forest Park in the past week and may be seen by anyone so inclined at the expense of little effort:

1. Tufted Titmouse
2. Cardinal
3. English Sparrow
4. Song Sparrow
5. Junco
6. Blue Jay
7. Downy Woodpecker
8. Hood Duck
9. Goldfinch
10. Bluebird
11. Meadowlark
12. Robin
13. Chickadee
14. Bronzed Grackle
15. Crow
16. Red-bellied Woodpecker

In addition to the above list of wild birds, the lagoons offer many tame ducks.

R.A.D.

A YEAR AND A HALF
OF BIRD BANDING
(June 1933 to January 1935)
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have handled a bird taken in my traps.

The Red-shouldered Hawk was a nestling and I banded it July 22, 1934 and on August 24, 1934 it was killed in La-villa, Iowa. (This report was sent per Washington, D.C.)

Also a Cardinal which I banded was found dead four months later at Glenco, Mo. (also per Washington, D.C.)

The Screech Owl which I banded roosts in a dead tree not a hundred feet from my traps and all the Titmice and Chickadees I have banded are still repeating, and have been all winter. This would seem to indicate that the screech Owl does not bother these small birds.

I have also found that the only time the Blackbirds visit my traps is during the month of July. This is the time when their young are large and need large amounts of food.

The only food I have been using are bread crumbs, sun-flower seed, and suet.

I.H.W.

THE SLING-SHOT MENACE
(continued from page 16)

education of the small boys who perpetrate these anti-social misdemeanors, as the writer goes on to point out:

"Laws prohibiting the use of flippers will avail nothing in our rural communities, first on account of the scarcity of enforcement officers, and the well known fact that officers will not arrest boys for what is considered a trifling offense. I do think however that excellent results could
(continued next column)

be obtained through educating these boys as to the value of these birds to the farmer, and appealing to their better instincts through their teachers in rural schools. This may be done so far as I know. But if it is, it is done in a haphazard fashion and the rural teacher has not been properly impressed with the seriousness of what birds actually mean to the nation as a whole."

No one will believe that boys, if directed into the proper channels of bird appreciation, would prefer to kill birds with a flipper rather than build bird houses, for instance, or feed the birds or make private studies of birds.

If boys are taught the love of birds, that will not prevent them from having all the sport with their slingshots that they want. The English Sparrow we have always with us and the Starling is recently becoming a nuisance. If they prefer bigger game, let them try their skill on crows. I venture to say that the boy who succeeds in killing a crow with a flipper will have to combine a rare degree of skill with considerable luck.-r.a.d.

WILD DUCK MIGRATION

Ducks fly along four major trails. they are the Atlantic, Mississippi, the Central, and the Pacific skyways.

A wild duck keeps to the trail of its ancestors no matter what difficulties it meets with. Therefore if ducks are hunted in a particular skyway in both spring and fall, the chances are that that particular trail will soon reach an exhaustion point from which it regains its strength with difficulty. The sportsmen of one trail control their own game.